



# Sam Brownback

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## News Release

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## **BROWNBACK PUSHES TO END MARRIAGE PENALTY TAX**

WASHINGTON -- U.S. Sen. Sam Brownback (KS) joined U.S. Sens. John Ashcroft (MO) and Kay Bailey Hutchison (TX) at a Capitol Hill news conference today calling for an end to the Marriage Penalty Tax.

“With the projected surpluses reported by the OMB, now is the time to eliminate the Marriage Penalty Tax,” Brownback said.

“The American people have worked hard to enhance and sustain our current economic prosperity. However, the American people continue to labor under the highest tax burden in peacetime history. The economy is growing and producing unexpected revenue to the Treasury. The bottom line is: Growth works.

“We need to use the Social Security surplus for Social Security, and we must create a lockbox for it. With the budget surplus over and above Social Security, there are a variety of options for cutting America’s taxes such as ending the Marriage Penalty Tax.

“It is absurd that the federal government will pay the average couple \$1,400 a year to get divorced. The marriage penalty tax is harmful to 21 million families, and must be changed. We have a chance to have a positive impact upon millions of American families, and send a message to our culture that says ‘marriage is important’. Marriage must be valued through our tax code,” Brownback said.

On Monday, the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) issued revised estimates of the budget surplus over the next fifteen years. The OMB report forecasts that the budget surpluses will total \$6 trillion over the next 15 years, a \$1.1 trillion increase from the February estimates.